

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 61, 67, 70, 75, 78 and 79 have been amended. Claims 80-86 have been added. If any fees are required for entry of this Amendment, please charge our deposit account number 03-3415.

The Examiner has rejected applicant's claims 61-65, 67-74 and 76-79 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Uchida, et al. (U.S. Patent Appln. Pub. No. 2001/0039560) published patent application in view of the Mousseau, et al. (U.S. Patent Appln. Pub. No. 2001/0005864) published patent application. Claims 66 and 75 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over the latter references taken in conjunction with the Watanabe, et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0034226) published patent application. Applicants have amended applicants' independent claims 61, 70, 78 and 79, and with respect to these claims, as amended, and their respective dependent claims, the Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants have amended applicants' claims to better define applicants' invention. More particularly, applicants' independent claim 61 has been amended to recite an information providing system comprising an information providing apparatus comprising receiving means adapted to receive electronic mail information, determining means adapted to determine whether or not a destination device of the electronic mail information can output the electronic mail information, registering means adapted to register the electronic mail information in correspondence with the code information in a database, and notifying means adapted to notify the code information corresponding to the received electronic mail information to the destination device, if a result of the determining is that the destination device cannot output the electronic mail information, and an information output terminal

comprising accepting means adapted to accept an input of the notified code information, acquiring means adapted to acquire the electronic mail information based on the inputted code information, and outputting means adapted to output the acquired electronic mail information. That is, in the information providing system of the present invention, the information providing apparatus which receives the electronic mail information is arranged so as to transmit the code information to the destination device of the received electronic mail information. Applicants' independent claims 70, 78 and 79 have been similarly amended.

Such constructions are not taught or suggested by the cited art of record. In particular, the Examiner has argued that the Uchida, et al. reference teaches an information providing system, method, program product and storage medium comprising receiving means adapted to receive electronic mail information (paragraphs 0070 and 0074); registering means adapted to register the electronic mail information in correspondence with code information (paragraphs 0074 and 0077), notifying means adapted to notify the code information corresponding to received electronic mail information to the destination device (paragraph 0082), inputting means adapted to input the notified code information to an output device and acquiring means adapted to acquire the electronic mail information based on the input code information (paragraph 0082). The Examiner has acknowledged that Uchida, et al. do not teach or suggest determining means adapted to determine whether or not a destination device of the electronic mail can display the information. However, the Examiner has argued that Mousseau, et al. teaches such feature in paragraphs 0016, 0034, 0035, 0042, 0072 and 0073, and that it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Uchida, et al. by determining whether or not a destination device of the electronic mail can display the information as taught by Mousseau, et al. so that the user can select an

alternative device to view the received information if the user's first device cannot view the received information.

Applicants have reviewed the passages of Uchida, et al. and Mousseau, et al. cited by the Examiner and submit that there is no teaching or suggestion in the Uchida, et al. or the Mousseau, et al. references of notifying code information corresponding to the received electronic mail information to the destination device if a result of the determining is that the destination device cannot output the electronic mail information. In particular, paragraphs 0074 and 0077 Uchida, et al., cited by the Examiner, teach that a sending terminal produces and sends to an mail server electronic mail data including a main body, title, access code, transmission destination data and transmission command, and that the mail server classifies the mail data to store the main body, the title, the access code and the transmission destination data in designated units. Paragraphs 0081 and 0082 of Uchida, et al. further teach that the mail server then sends a reception notification containing the title and the access code to an accepting terminal, which outputs and displays the contents of the notification and allows the user to determine whether or not to receive the main body of the electronic mail. Paragraphs 0016, 0034, 0035, 0042, 0072 and 0073 of the Mousseau, et al. references, cited by the Examiner, disclose that when a mobile device cannot receive and process certain attachments to an electronic mail, or if a user has specified that the attachments are not to be sent to the mobile device, these attachments can be redirected to another device, such as to a fax machine.

As acknowledged by the Examiner, there is no mention in Uchida, et al. about determining whether or not a destination device, i.e. the accepting terminal, of the electronic mail can display or output the electronic mail information, and thus there is no, and cannot be

any, teaching or suggestion in Uchida, et al. of notifying the code information corresponding to the received electronic mail information to the destination device, if a result of the determining is that the destination device cannot output the electronic mail information.

With respect to the Mousseau, et al. reference, while the passages of Mousseau, et al. cited by the Examiner disclose determining whether a mobile device, which is the destination device of the received electronic mail information, can display the electronic mail information, the Mousseau, et al. reference mentions nothing of notifying the code information corresponding to the electronic mail information to the destination device if it is determined that the destination device cannot output the electronic mail information. Instead, in Mousseau, et al., the host redirects the received electronic mail information to another output device if the destination device cannot display or output the mail information. Applicants' present invention recited in independent claims 61, 78 and 79, however, is arranged so as to transmit code information to the destination device itself and does not change the destination device to a different device if it is determined that the destination device cannot output the received electronic mail information. Accordingly, the Mosseau, et al., like Uchida, et al., fails to teach or suggest notifying the code information corresponding to the received electronic mail information to the destination device, if a result of the determining is that the destination device cannot output the electronic mail information.

For the above reasons, the Uchida, et al. and the Mousseau, et al. references, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the notifying means functioning together with the determining means as recited in applicants' amended independent claims 61, 78 and 79, namely, such that code information corresponding to the received electronic mail information is notified to the destination device if it is determined that the destination device cannot output

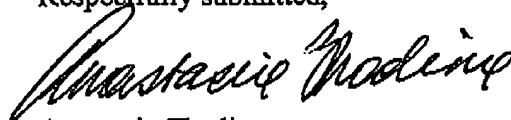
the electronic mail information. Moreover, there is nothing added by the Watanabe reference to change this conclusion. Accordingly, applicants' amended independent claims 61, 78 and 79, and their respective dependent claims, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record.

With respect to applicants' newly added independent claims 80 and 85, the cited references do not teach or suggest effecting control so as to transmit the electronic mail information and the corresponding code information to the detected destination terminal if it is discriminated that the detected destination terminal cannot output the electronic mail information and to transmit the electronic information to the detected destination terminal if it is discriminated that the detected destination terminal station can output the electronic mail information. As discussed above with respect to applicants' independent claims 61, 78 and 79, the Uchida, et al. and the Mousseau, et al. references fail to teach or suggest notifying the code information to the destination terminal if it is determined that the destination terminal cannot output the electronic mail information. Similarly, there is nothing taught or suggested in Uchida, et al. or in the Mousseau, taken alone or in combination, of controlling transmission of electronic mail information such that the corresponding code information is transmitted or not transmitted based on the result of the discrimination of whether or not the destination terminal can output the electronic mail information. Moreover, there is no teaching or suggestion in the Watanabe reference that would change this conclusion. Applicants' new independent claims 80 and 85, which recite such features, and their respective dependent claims, thus patentably distinguish over the cited art of record.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicants' claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims and passage of same and this application to issue is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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